# Progress Report

## < ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme >

**December 2025**

**Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship**

# Contents

**1. Purpose of the ASEM-DUO ..... 04**

**2. Structure and Principles ..... 04**

01) Structure of the ASEM-DUO ..... 04

02) Core Principles ..... 04

**3. Progress of Individual DUO Programs ..... 05**

01) DUO-Korea ..... 05

02) DUO-Singapore ..... 10

03) DUO-France ..... 12

04) DUO-Denmark ..... 14

05) DUO-Thailand ..... 15

06) DUO-Sweden ..... 19

07) DUO-Belgium/Flanders ..... 22

08) DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels ..... 24

09) DUO-India ..... 27

10) DUO-Korea/Germany ..... 28

11) DUO-CIMEA/Italy ..... 29

**4. Number of Beneficiaries of Each Program ..... 30**

**5. Contributed Fellowship amount of Each Program ..... 31**

**6. Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme ..... 32**

**7. History ..... 42**

# 1. Purpose of the ASEM-DUO

The ASEM-DUO aims at contributing to better enhance reciprocal academic exchanges between the students and the teachers of the European and Asian ASEM member countries. It is dedicated not only to increase the number of people-to-people exchanges between the two regions but also to encourage the development of bilateral exchange programs: through creating new programs or inducing people's active engagement to exchange programs which have already been established but in dormancy. The first plan was designed for 2001-2005. Thanks to efforts of contributing members and successful progress, the plan was endorsed for the 2nd phrase (2006-2010) from ASEM V in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2004, the 3rd phrase (2011-2015) from ASEM Ⅷ in Brussels, Belgium in 2010. the 4th phrase (2016-2020) from ASEM Ⅹ in Milano, Italy in 2014, the 5th phrase (2021-2025) from ASEM XII in Brussels, Belgium in 2018, and 6th phrase (2026-2030) from ASEMME IX in Valetta, Malta in 2024.

# 2. Structure and Principles

## 1) Structure of the ASEM-DUO

The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme is basically an umbrella program, and actual fellowships are provided by individual program. At present, there have been eleven such individual programs, and they are respectively called DUO-Denmark, DUO-France, DUO-Korea, DUO-Singapore, DUO-Thailand, DUO-Sweden, DUO-Belgium/Flanders, DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels, DUO-India, DUO-Korea (Germany), and DUO-CIMEA/Italy reflecting the contributing member countries. All these individual programs are governed by a set of Core Principles, and the rest of the specific details of the programs are to be prescribed by the contributing members.

## 2) Core Principles

Core Principles, which govern all individual fellowship programs, consist of three principles. They are as follows:

### *(1) Pairs: one from Asia, one from Europe*

Only ***pairs*** of students or teachers from the two educational institutions, one in Asia and the other in Europe, are to be supported. Institutions and students (or teachers) should be paired: a student from a different institution in a member is not allowed. Both members of a pair are supported together.

### *(2) Standardized duration of support*

Financial support is given in terms of ***semesters***, not in terms of months or years; for students, one unit comprises of four months; for teachers, one unit is one month. From the 2nd Expert Meeting held in November 2003, the definition of the semester was altered from 6 months to 4 months.

### *(3) Standardized amount of support*

Financial support is standardized for each pair of students at €8,000 to €12,000 (€8,000 for 2 students for a four-month semester, or €12,000 for 2 students for a six-month semester). For each pair of teachers, it is standardized at €6,000(per pair of teachers a month). From the 7th Expert Meeting held in March 2012, the standardized amount is changed to be more flexible as between 1,000 to 2,000 Euros for a pair of students per month, and between 3,000 to 6,000 Euros for a pair of teachers per month. However, each individual Programme is free to specify the maximum number of units for support and the division of fellowship amount among the members in a pair is to be determined by individual contributing members.

## 3. Progress of Individual DUO Programs

As of December 2025, there are six countries participating in ASEM-DUO, namely, Belgium/Wallonia, Sweden, Singapore, Korea, Thailand and CIMEA/Italy. The ASEM-DUO Secretariat has confirmed that although Denmark, France, Belgium/Flanders, Germany and India have withdrawn from the ASEM-DUO Programme in 2007, 2008, 2021 and 2023 respectively, students from these five countries are still eligible for this Programme as they are from ASEM member countries.

Individual DUO programs slightly differ in details, while fully observing the Core Principles. Current status and characteristics of each program are as follows:

### 1) DUO-Korea

DUO-Korea was launched in 2001. Other than Core Principles, this program requires cooperation agreements signed between the two educational institutions and the persons to be exchanged are selected under the cooperation agreement before submitting applications. DUO-Korea does not impose any further requirements in order to encourage as many applications as possible.

In 2001, DUO-Korea selected 16 pairs of applicants, 8 for exchanges of students and 8 for professors, which involve 9 European member countries – Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom – and nine Korean universities across the country.

In 2002, DUO-Korea selected 2 pairs of high school teachers, 16 pairs of professors and 19 pairs of students in July. The decision involves European educational institutions from 10 European member countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK).

DUO-Korea 2003 awarded 16 pairs of professors and 33 pairs of students from 10 European member countries-Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

DUO-Korea 2004 produced 12 pairs of professors and 40 pairs of students were selected for total of 392,000 EUROS. There were 10 European member countries including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, Spain, Italy, Sweden, and the Netherlands. 23 professors and all students completed exchanges.

Before making proposal for DUO-Korea 2004 calls, Advisory Committee for ASEM-DUO Secretariat (ACAS) members voted to add pre-screening procedure on nationality of applicants as a way to enforce institutional relationship.

In 2005, DUO-Korea selected 9 pairs of professors, 3 pairs of teachers, and 45 pairs of students. At the Selection Committee Meeting, Committee Members agreed to accept EU nationals in general as rightful candidates for DUO-Korea even though their nationality may not coincide with those of institutions, and the amendment has been active since 2006.

DUO-Korea 2006 awarded 10 pairs of professors, 1 pair of teachers and 51 pairs of students for exchanges with 12 European member countries including Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Poland. Since the inclusion of Eastern European members in EU, DUO-Korea has rapidly widened its door to new members.

Having announced its selection preference to new projects starting 2007, DUO-Korea 2007 awarded 63 pairs of students, 6 pairs of professors and 1 pair of teachers with total of 546,000 euros. Awarded European member countries include Austria, Belgium,

Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK.

The Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development requested a marketing firm to assess satisfaction study on DUO-Korea with online and phone survey targeting awardees and international office managers from DUO-Korea 2004, 2005, and 2006 in winter 2007. Satisfaction index was divided into notification, application, homepage, communication with the Secretariat, selection procedure, fellowship and evaluation of mission report. All groups (students, professors and international office managers) showed high satisfaction with communication with the Secretariat with need for improvement in homepage, clear indication of selection criteria, and finding partners.

In the following year of 2008, the newly embarked government went through re-structuring of governmental bodies that changed Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development into Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The Selection Committee for DUO-Korea 2008 decided upon 40 pairs of student and 5 pairs of professor fellows in exchange with Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. Due to inconsistent performance in complying with the guideline of DUO-Korea by professor fellows and limited DUO-Korea fellowship budget for increasing number of student applicants, the Committee approved its termination of support for professors from 2009 to concentrate on student exchanges.

DUO-Korea 2009 received record breaking number of application of 195 involving 137 projects of which 29 Korean institutions and 107 EU partner institutions participated. The Selection Committee was held in June to have 39 pairs selected in the final stage. As more and more new projects are brought in, the Committee added quota restriction per Korean institution to 15% and suggested to announce it on the next round of call for applications in 2010.

In 2010, DUO-Korea selected 46 pairs of applicants which involve 14 European member countries – Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK – and 22 Korean Universities across the country.

The DUO-Korea 2011 closed its application in May and announced 48 pairs of students as awardees in June 2011. The European partners came from 18 European member

countries – add Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia to countries of 2010 – and 137 EU partner institutions participated for application. In addition to this, the record breaking number of application of 264 was the highest.

In 2012, DUO-Korea selected 50 pairs of students. Over 300 pairs of students which were a lot more than last year's 264 applications, applied with 32 Korean universities involving 18 European ASEM members and 137 universities.

In the following year of 2013, the newly embarked government went through restructuring of governmental bodies that changed Ministry of Education, Science and Technology into Ministry of Education. DUO-Korea 2013 received 308 applications involving 272 projects of which 33 Korean institutions and 157 EU partner institutions – add Switzerland and Norway to countries of 2012 – participated. The Selection Committee was held in June to have 56 pairs selected in the final stage. The Committee decided to add quota restriction not only per Korean institution but also per European country from next year and suggested to announce it on the next round of call for applications in 2014.

In 2014, DUO-Korea selected 56 pairs of applicants which involve 16 European member countries – Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands– and 34 Korean Universities across the country.

The DUO-Korea 2015 closed its application in May 2015 and announced 58 pairs of students in June, which was slightly more awardees than 2014. The European partners came from 18 European member countries and 167 EU partner institutions participated for application.

In 2016, DUO-Korea 2016 received the total number of 337 applications involving 155 projects of 42 Korean institutions and 185 EU partner universities participated. From this year the evaluation of motivation letter was additionally considered for the selection according to the decision from the Selection Committee 2015. The Selection Committee 2016 was held in June and selected 50 pairs of awardees.

DUO-Korea 2017 received the total number of 313 applications from 43 Korean universities and 171 EU partner universities of 19 European member countries and includes 130 new projects. The Selection Committee 2017 was held in June and selected 50 pairs of DUO-Korea 2017 awardees.

The call for DUO-Korea 2018 was open from April 2 to May 14, 2018 received the total number of 292 applications from 41 Korean universities and 168 EU partner universities of 21 European member countries and includes 144 new projects. The motivation letter of applicants was evaluated by 5 members of the Selection Committee and the Selection Committee Meeting 2018 was held on June 20, 2018. Total 52 pairs were selected and the final decision was announced in June 2018.

In 2019, the call for DUO-Korea 2019 was open from April 1 to May 10, 2019 and received total number of 231 applications. The motivation letters of 78 pairs were evaluated by 5 members of the Selection Committee and the Selection Committee Meeting was held in June 20, 2019 to discuss the results of the selection. Total 52 pairs were selected and the final decision was announced at the ASEM-DUO website in June 2019.

The original call for DUO-Korea 2020 was open from April 6 to May 11, 2020, but the applying period was extended to May 20, 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic situation. DUO-Korea 2020 received a total number of 173 applications from 35 Korean universities and 115 EU partner universities of 19 European member countries, and 94 new projects were included. The motivation letters of 74 pairs were evaluated by 5 members of the Selection Committee and the meeting was held on June 18, 2020. A total of 49 pairs were selected and the finalist was announced at the ASEM-DUO website on June 19, 2020.

The call for DUO-Korea 2021 was open from April 5 to May 11, 2021, but the deadline was extended to May 20, 2021, due to COVID-19. The Secretariat received 199 applications from 42 Korean universities and 139 EU partner universities of 21 European member countries. Among them, 109 new projects were included and the Korean Selection Committee evaluated the motivation letters of 87 pairs of student applicants. The Selection Committee Meeting was held on June 30, 2021, and announced that 52 pairs were selected on the ASEM-DUO website on the same date.

In 2022, the call for DUO-Korea was open from April 5 to May 19, 2022, and received 310 applications from 47 Korean universities and 175 EU partner universities of 21 European member countries. A total of 167 new projects were included and the Korean Selection Committee evaluated the motivation letters of 91 pairs of student applicants. The Selection Committee Meeting was held on June 24, 2022, and announced that 54 pairs were selected on the ASEM-DUO website on June 29, 2022.

DUO-Korea 2023 received a total number of 274 applications from 45 Korean universities and 165 EU partner universities from 21 European partner countries. Among them, more than 45% (127 new MOUs) were new projects, which have never been selected before 2023. The Selection Committee met in June and selected 45 pairs of students as DUO-Korea 2023 awardees.

In 2024, the call for DUO-Korea was open from April 4 to May 20, 2024, and received 270 applications from 48 Korean universities and 164 EU partner universities from 21 European partner countries. There are a total of 153 new projects which is more than 55%, and the Korean Selection Committee evaluated the motivation letters of 69 pairs of student applicants. The Selection Committee met in June and selected 44 pairs of students as DUO-Korea 2024 awardees. Out of 88 student awardees 86 awardees participated in the exchange in the fall semester of 2024, and 2 awardees will carry on the exchange during 2025 spring semester.

The call for DUO-Korea 2025 was open from April 4 to May 21, 2025, and received 329 applications from 47 Korean universities and 177 EU partner universities from 21 European partner countries. Among them, 178 new projects are included, and the Korean Selection Committee met in June and selected 38 pairs of students as DUO-Korea 2025 awardees. Out of 76 student awardees, 3 student awardees withdraw from the exchange due to personal circumstances, and 72 student awardees participated in the exchange in the fall semester of 2025. The remaining 1 student awardee will carry on the exchange during 2026 spring semester.

**2) DUO-Singapore**

The DUO-Singapore was set to promote academic exchanges between full-time undergraduate students who are Singapore (or ASEAN citizens) and students from universities in European ASEM member countries.

Announced in November 2001 with a budget of US$1 million (to fund our initial five-year involvement), DUO-Singapore first invited applications for academic year 2002/2003. Singapore only accepts applications from students (and not teachers) and DUO-Singapore disbursed a standard €8,000 to each pair of students per semester (DUO-Singapore does not specify the duration of each semester).

MFA TCD administers DUO-Singapore although the selection process is left entirely to

Singapore universities. TCD will call for applications to DUO-Singapore, through Singapore universities, using published materials and the DUO-Singapore website, and the universities will receive and shortlist the applications according to the numbers specified by MFA (The number selected each year is dependent on budgetary rather than political considerations). MFA will then endorse the candidates, after which, letters of offer will be sent out. Upon the acceptance of the award by a candidate, TCD disburses the allowances accordingly. Actual fellowships are administered by the respective universities and the participating Singapore universities are Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Singapore Management University (SMU). The universities will collate any feedback upon the completion of the program and send this back to TCD.

The first batch in 2002/2003 comprised 18 pairs of students while the second batch in 2003/2004 saw a bumper crop of 27 pairs of students selected. Since then, DUO-Singapore have stabilized the numbers from the third (2004/2005) to the seventh (2008/2009) batches at 18 pairs of students per batch. In 2009/2010, however, produced 12 pairs of students. From the eighth (2010/2011) to the thirteenth (2015/2016) batches, DUO-Singapore was awarded to 9 pairs of students every year from 10 European countries including Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. The areas of exchange include Business Administration, Economics, Engineering, Law, Architecture, and Building and Real Estate.

In addition, DUO-Singapore is also open to ASEAN students in the three Singapore universities, based on merit. The number of ASEAN students awarded each year is as follows: academic year 2002/2003 (one Malaysian), academic year 2003/2004 (two Malaysians), academic year 2004/2005 (one Malaysian, one Indonesian and one Vietnamese), academic year 2005/2006 (one Vietnamese), academic year 2006/2007 (one Malaysian), academic year 2007/2008 (one Vietnamese) and academic year 2008/2009 (one Malaysian).

Since 2016, the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) participated in DUO-Singapore, the total number of universities are changed to four. For the academic year 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, SUTD selected 2 pairs of students per batch, and the rest of the three universities selected 3 pairs of students every year.

From 2018, all universities selected 3 pairs of students every year but, in 2020 and 2021, all universities decided to suspend all overseas exchanges due to the COVID-19

pandemic.

On April 28, 2021, the Singapore government informed Secretariat that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is in the process of assessing whether they will continue to contribute to the ASEM-DUO funding for 2021-2025. In early 2022, the Singapore government informed us that they decided to continue to participate in the ASEM-DUO Programme until 2025.

In August 2022, the Secretariat received the finalist from all four participating universities (NTU, NUS, SMU, and SUTD). Each university selected 3 pairs of students. The selected European partner countries are Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

Four participating universities, namely NTU, NUS, SMU, and SUTD selected 3 pairs of students as the awardees of DUO-Singapore 2023. The selected European partner countries are Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Poland, Sweden, and the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

In August 2024, the Secretariat received the awardees list from the contact person of four Singaporean universities, and each university selected 3 pairs of students as the awardees of DUO-Singapore 2024. The selected European partner countries are Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

In early August 2025, the Secretariat received the awardee list from the contact person of four Singaporean universities, and each university selected 3 pairs of students as the awardees of DUO-Singapore 2025. The selected European partner countries are Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom.

### 3) DUO-France (subject to further information)

DUO-France, financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims at supporting cooperation projects (post graduate level only) between higher-education institutions located in France and in the Asian ASEM countries. Like DUO-Denmark, DUO-France does not support existing projects but encourages their development or helps in the creation of new projects. Selection of persons to be exchanged under the projects is left with the educational institution. Verification of fellows' nationality has recently been added to reinforce the objective of exchange between French and Asian fellows.

In June 2002, the selection of projects was made for 16 exchange projects, which involved institutions in France, and 8 Asian member countries – Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Singapore, China, Philippines, and Malaysia. A total of 48 students and 44 professors were to be exchanged. As the 2-year project ended as of August, 2 professors and 4 students were not able to complete exchanges with reasons including SARS.

For DUO-France 2003, 9 projects were awarded. Total of 448,000 EUROS was to be shared with the nominated Asian members from Vietnam, Japan, Philippines, Korea, China, and Indonesia. Fifty-two professors and 50 students were selected for exchange.

DUO-France 2004 announced its selection of 9 projects with 22 pairs of students and 19 pairs of professors for 322,000 EUROS in July, 2004. Seven Asian member countries included China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, and the Philippines.

From 2005, the French government contracted an independent education service organization, EGIDE, to operation of DUO-France including financial transaction of fellowship to fellows in order to simplify its internal procedure. It has been agreed to have close cooperation between EGIDE and the Secretariat in sharing information with prior approval of French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In January 2005, DUO-France 2005 issued calling for applications until March 2005. DUO-France 2005 Award went to 6 projects to support 26 professors and 24 students with 165,000 EUROS. Exchange partners are from Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

DUO-France 2006 announced 7 successful projects that would be endowed with 238,000 EUROS to support 48 professors and 48 students. 7 Asian member countries include China, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

DUO-France 2007 is on call for applications until March 30, 2007, and received 25 applications in partnership with 7 Asian members; Cambodia, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Out of 25 projects, 5 projects with Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam were selected. From these projects, 6 pairs of professors and 23 pairs of students were expected to go through exchange with the support of 229,000 euros over the next 2 years.

Following an external evaluation carried out in 2007 focusing on DUO-France, it has

been decided not to renew any invitations to tender, starting 2008; Different objective set by DUO-France in creating joint degree programs has not been achieved that led to the decision. This has been presented and shared by French Embassy official at the 4th Expert Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in 2008.

### 4) DUO-Denmark

Under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DUO-Denmark was launched on April 1 2003. The announcement of the DUO-Denmark was made through the ASEM-DUO website and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat.

The objective of this fellowship is to promote the creation of the closest possible bilateral links between the higher educational institutions in Denmark and Asian countries, by financing the exchange of students and professors in pairs. Hence, DUO-Denmark does not support existing exchange projects but support new projects or projects with new developments. DUO-Denmark 2003 supported 14 projects from 4 Asian members, China, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand were selected to dispense 246,000 euros. Except for 3 cancelled projects due to internal reasons, 11 projects have been successfully completed.

DUO-Denmark 2004 Programme selected 12 projects amounting to 184,000 EUROS to support 11 pairs of professors and 11 pairs of students in partnership with China, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, and Japan. Twenty-one professors and all students completed exchange. One pair of professors was withdrawn from award.
Eligibility has been more elaborated for 2004 Programme criteria. For exchanges between Denmark and China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam that are promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, only Danes are eligible from Denmark and nationals of the countries mentioned from the Asian side. For exchanges between Denmark and Brunei, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore, professors and students from Danish universities are accepted as are professors and students from the ASEM countries.

After having assessed future of DUO-Denmark with assistance from an independent consulting group in early 2005 (please refer to its evaluation report on the “archive menu” at www.asemduo.org), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed its continuance to support DUO-Denmark with its current share of Asian member countries.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MSTI) decided to withdraw from the second stage. Further discussion was made in terms of management of the fellowship programme without MSTI's partnership.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has finally decided to stop its support due to its number of changes in the administration of fellowships as of February 2007.

**5) DUO-Thailand**

In August 2004, Thailand was approached by the Korean government to become a co-sponsor of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. The Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Ministry of Education, as a government agency responsible for formulating higher education development policies and plans, had developed a proposal and principles of the DUO-Thailand Fellowship Programme.

In September 2005, the Thai Cabinet approved the DUO-Thailand Fellowship Programme with the budgetary support of 48,900,000 baht (around one million Euros) for its implementation during a 5-year period (2006-2010). The major purpose of the DUO-Thailand Fellowship Programme is to promote a mobility of university students and faculty members between higher education institutions in Thailand and in the European Union Member States on a balance basis.

The DUO-Thailand Fellowship Programme was first launched in April 2006. Based on the core principles of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, the Executive Committee (EC) of the DUO-Thailand Fellowship Programme formulated guidelines for applications.

Pairs of students and faculty members must be exchanged within the framework of cooperation between higher educational institutions in Thailand and in the European Union Member States. A home or host university already having an academic agreement with its partner will be given priority to encourage active implementation of an agreement.

Duration of the program is 4 months for students and 1 month for faculty members. The priority areas of exchange are identified in corresponding to the National Economic and Social Development Plan, the National Education Plan, and supporting the Strategic Scholarships Fellowships Frontier Research Networks of Thailand. Those areas include Health Sciences, Tropical Medicine, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Nanotechnology, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Alternative Energy, Neuroscience, Software and Digital

Technology, Fashion Design Business System Design, Wood Technology, and Food Technology. However, there is no restriction on other disciplines.

Selection criteria rely on eligibility of student and faculty member applicants such as language proficiency, record of transcript, type of activities, etc. The Program's Implementation Guideline has been posted at the websites of the Secretariat of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (www.asemduo.org) and of OHEC (www.inter.mua.go.th).

In 2006, the total of the awardees were 23 pairs consisting of 6 pairs of students and 17 pairs of faculty members under the exchange areas of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Nanotechnology, Health Sciences and Medicine, and Sciences. The exchange European partners came from 9 European member countries including Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Thailand announced the 2007 DUO-Thailand during November 2006 – March 2007. Out of 40 pairs of applicants, 6 pairs of students and 30 pairs of faculty members were announced as awardees in June 2007. The areas of exchange included Tourism and Hospitality Management, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Nanotechnology, Health Sciences and Medicine, Sciences, Logistics and Supply Chain Management. There were 9 exchange partners from European member countries consisting of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

The DUO-Thailand 2008 closed its application in February 2008 and announced 19 pairs of professors and 13 pairs of students as awardees in April 2008. The European partners came from 9 European countries; Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The awardees participated in the areas of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Nanotechnology, Health Sciences and Medicine, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Architecture, Social Sciences, Arts, and Alternative Energy.

The DUO-Thailand 2009 applications were called for in the beginning of September 2008. Unlike the previous years, applications were confined to students in order to encourage more students' participation. It is an endeavor of OHEC to balance ratio of student and faculty exchange. Nevertheless, not many students applied for the program.

There were only 6 pairs of students selected. Partners from European member countries included Austria, France, Italy, and Sweden under the exchange areas of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Biotechnology, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Sciences, Foreign Languages/ Applied Linguistics, and Economics.

Consequently, the second round of the DUO-Thailand 2009 was open to student and faculty applicants. The second phase for 2009 applications was called for in the beginning of May. The priority was given to, but not limited to, the areas of Alternative Energy, Biotechnology/Food Technology, Business System Design, Health Sciences, Wood Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and Tourism and Hospitality Management. Thailand announced 14 pairs of professors and 8 pairs of students as awardees in July 2009.

In August 2009, the DUO-Thailand 2010 applications were called until the late October. The priority is given to, but not limited to, as same as 2009 phase II. Out of 47 pairs of applicants, 3 pairs of students and 9 pairs of faculty members were announced as awardees in November 2009.

Thailand announced the 2011 DUO-Thailand during August – October 2010. 3 pairs of students were announced as awardees in November 2010. The areas of exchange included Alternative Energy, Biotechnology/Food Technology, Business System Design, Health Sciences, Wood Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Tourism and Hospitality Management. Exchange partners from European member countries consisting of Austria, France and the Netherlands.

The DUO-Thailand 2012 closed its application in September 2011 and announced 6 pairs of students as awardees in January 2012. The European partners came from 5 European countries; Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and the Netherlands. The awardees participated in the areas of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Business Administration, Engineering and Arts.

In June 2012, the DUO-Thailand 2013 applications were called until the late August. The priority is given to, but not limited to, as same as 2011. 3 pairs of students were announced as awardees in November 2012 and European partners came from Belgium, France, and Sweden.

Thailand announced the 2014 DUO-Thailand during August – May 2013. 3 pairs of

students were announced as awardees in November 2013. The areas of exchange included Alternative Energy, Biotechnology/Food Technology, Health Sciences, Wood Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Engineering, European Law, Intellectual Property Law and energy Economics. Exchange partners from European member countries consisting of Denmark, France and Sweden.

The DUO-Thailand 2015 closed its application in August 2014 and announced 5 pairs of students as awardees in November 2014. The European partners came from 4 European countries; France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. The awardees participated in the areas of Communication Arts, Business Administration, Political Sciences, Biosciences, Pharmacy and Psychology and Cognitive Sciences.

Thailand announced the 4 pairs of awardees for 2016 DUO-Thailand in October 2015. The European partners are from 3 European countries; the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Czech Republic.

In May 2016, the DUO-Thailand 2017 applications were called until the late August, 2016. The priority is given to, but not limited to, as same as 2016. 1 pair of students were selected for the DUO-Thailand 2017 in September 2016 and the second round of application call opened from October to December 16, 2016. 7 pairs of students were selected for the second round of the DUO-Thailand 2017 and announced in January 2017.

The call for DUO-Thailand 2018 applications were opened from June 8 to August 31, 2017 and 1 pair of students were selected in October 2017.

DUO-Thailand 2019 call for applications opened from June 11 to September 28, 2018. The total of 1 pair of students were selected and resulted was announced in November 2018.

The application call for DUO-Thailand 2020 was open from July 4 to October 4, 2019 and 2 pairs of students were selected. The official announcement was updated in November 2019.

DUO-Thailand 2021 call for applications were opened from July 10 to October 8, 2020. The total of 1 pair of students were selected and resulted was announced in November 2020.

On September 3, 2021, the Thai government informed the Secretariat that DUO-Thailand 2022 was canceled due to funding issues.

On October 7, 2022, the Thai government informed us that they decided not to operate DUO-Thailand 2023 due to financial issues.

The Thai government has decided not to host the call for applications for DUO-Thailand 2024 for budgetary reasons and informed the Secretariat of its decision on September 12, 2023.

On July 23, 2024, the Thai government notified that they would not be able to allocate the funds for the program this year as well. They expect to restart the program next year.

The Secretariat was informed by the Thai government on August 1, 2025 that the opening a new call for applications is not feasible since the budget has not been allocated for this year.

**6) DUO-Sweden**

Sweden officially launched DUO-Sweden Fellowship on April 15, 2010. The announcement of the DUO-Sweden was made through the ASEM-DUO website and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat. Under the auspices of the International Programme Office for Education and Training in Sweden, this Fellowship invites exchange programs undertaken by two academic institutions above tertiary level, one student from Sweden and the other from the Asian ASEM member countries, in order to strengthen and develop partnership relations.

In February 2010, the DUO-Sweden announced with a budget of 2 million Swedish Krona (to fund 2010 and 2011).

The DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme was first launched in April 2010. Based on the core principles of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program, the International Programme Office for Education and Training formulated guidelines for applications.

Pairs of students must be exchanged within the framework of cooperation between higher educational institutions in Sweden and in the Asian Member Countries. Duration

of the program is 4 months for students and the Program's Implementation Guideline has been posted at the websites of the Secretariat of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (www.asemduo.org).

In 2010, the total of the awardees were 12 pairs of students and in the following year of 2011, DUO-Sweden awarded 13 pairs of students for exchanges. The exchange Asian partners came from 3 Asian member countries including China, Korea and Japan.

DUO-Sweden selected 14 pairs of students as awardees in June 2012. The Asian partners came from 4 Asian countries – add Singapore to countries of 2011 – and 19 Asian partner institutions participated for application.

DUO-Sweden 2013 awarded 14 pairs of students for exchanges with 4 Asian member countries including Australia, China (Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan), Singapore and Korea.

In April 2014, the DUO-Sweden 2014 applications were called until mid-May. 14 pairs of students were announced as awardees in June 2014 and Asian partners came from 6 Asian member countries (Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand).

The DUO-Sweden 2015 closed its application in June 2015 and announced 14 pairs of students as awardees in July, 2015. The Asian partners came from 3 Asian countries; Australia, China and Korea. The awardees participated in the areas of Social Science, Tourism, Business Administration and Engineering.

The DUO-Sweden 2016 applications opened from April 25 to May 20, 2016. 13 pairs of students were selected and announced the final list of DUO-Sweden 2016 in June. The Asian partners came from 5 Asian member countries: Australia, China (Mainland, Hong Kong), Singapore, New Zealand and Korea.

The DUO-Sweden 2017 selected 17 pairs of awardees in June, 2017 from 39 applications. The Asian partners came from 7 Asian member countries: Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, and Singapore.

The DUO-Sweden 2018 applications opened from April 16 to May 21, 2018 and received 47 applications, which is the highest number. The 14 pairs of awardees were selected and the final selection was announced in June 2018. The Asian partners came from 6 Asian member countries: China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and Singapore.

The application call for DUO-Sweden 2019 was open from April 15 to May 23, 2019 and received the total number of 32 applications. Total 14 pairs were selected and the final decision was announced in June 2019. The Asian partners are from 4 Asian member countries: Australia, China, Korea and Singapore.

The DUO-Sweden 2020 applications opened twice caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first one was opened from April 14 to May 18, 2020, and the deadline was extended to June 2, 2020. A total of 3 pairs of students were selected and the result was announced on the ASEM-DUO website on June 12, 2020. For the second round, the call for applications was open from August 31 to October 5, 2020, and the deadline was extended to October 22, 2020. A total of 1 pair of students were selected and the finalist was updated on November 10, 2020.

In 2021, the call for applications for DUO-Sweden 2021 was opened from April 12, 2021, to May 20, 2021, and received a total number of 23 applications. The Sweden government informed the Secretariat that all applicants were selected, and the Secretariat announced the finalist in June 2021 on the ASEM-DUO website. The Asian awardees are from 6 Asian member countries: Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and Singapore.

The call for DUO-Sweden 2022 applications was open from April 11 to May 24, 2022, and received 50 applications. A total of 18 pairs of students were selected and the finalist was announced on June 15, 2022, on the ASEM-DUO website. The selected 7 Asian member countries are Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand.

Applications for DUO-Sweden 2023 applications were open from April 11 to May 22, 2023, and 57 applications were submitted. A total of 15 student pairs were selected and the finalists were announced on the ASEM-DUO website on June 14, 2023. The 4 selected Asian partner countries are China, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand.

In 2024, the call for applications for DUO-Sweden 2024 was open from April 8 to May 21, 2024, and received 83 applications from 9 Swedish institutions and 27 Asian partner institutions from 8 Asian partner countries. Among them, 14 pairs of students were selected and the finalists were announced on June 11, 2024. The selected Asian partner countries are Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore.

The call for applications for DUO-Sweden 2025 was open from April 7 to May 19, 2025, and received 75 applications from 10 Swedish institutions and 30 Asian partner institutions from 7 Asian partner countries. Among them, 13 pairs were selected and the finalists were announced on June 11, 2025. The selected Asian partner countries are Australia, China, Japan, Singapore and Thailand.

### 7) DUO-Belgium/Flanders

Belgium/Flanders officially launched DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship on March 1, 2012. The announcement of the DUO-Belgium/Flanders was made through the ASEM-DUO website and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Training in Belgium/Flanders, this Fellowship invites exchange programs undertaken by two academic institutions above tertiary level, one student from Belgium/Flanders and the other from the 4 Asian ASEM member countries (China, India, Korea and Vietnam) in order to strengthen and develop partnership relations.

The priority areas of exchange are identified in corresponding to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Political and social sciences, Economy and Communication Sciences. Furthermore DUO-Belgium/Flanders will give priority to following themes- Intercultural dialogue, Sustainability, Innovation and Health care and at least 25% of all scholarships is given to students with a low socio-economic background.

Pairs of students must be exchanged within the framework of cooperation between higher educational institutions in Belgium/Flanders and in the 4 Asian ASEM member countries. Duration of the program is 4 months for students and the Program's Implementation Guideline has been posted at the websites of the Secretariat of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (www.asemduo.org).

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2012 awarded 17 pairs of students for exchanges with 4 Asian member countries as it was announced. The amount of the fellowships is 8,000 euros for both students in a pair (800 Euro/month for the Flemish student - 1200 Euro/month for the Asian student). 9 Belgium/Flanders Institutions and 11 Asian Institutions were involved. During the application period, the Ministry of Education and Training in Belgium/Flanders decided to accept non-EU nationals in general as rightful candidates for DUO-Belgium/Flanders Programme even though their nationalities may not

coincide with EU members countries.

In March 2013, the DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2013 applications were called until the middle of April. The priority is given to, but not limited to, as same as 2012. The decision was announced in May and 18 pairs of students were selected.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders selected 18 pairs of students as awardees in May 2014. Nationality of the student was not a criterion and the amount of the fellowships was changed; 8,000 Euros for both students in a pair (1000 Euro/month for BOTH the Flemish student and the Asian student). The Asian partners came from 3 Asian countries – exclude Korea to countries of 2013 – and 8 Belgian institutions participated for application.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2015 also awarded 18 pairs of students for exchanges with 4 Asian member countries. The amount of the fellowships was subjected to final approval by the Flemish Government, at the latest in March 2015 and standardized as follows: 650 Euro/month for Flemish students and 800 Euro/month for Asian students and 1,100 Euro for BOTH the Flemish student and the Asian student for the purpose with travel costs.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2016 applications were called from January until the end of March. The decision was announced in April and 18 pairs of students were selected from 30 applications.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2017 applications were called from December 2016 to March 2017, and selected 19 pairs of awardees from 28 applications. The final decision was announced in April 2017.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2018 applications were called from December 15, 2017 to April 2, 2018, and selected 18 pairs of awardees from 42 applications. The final decision was announced in May 2018.

The application call for DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2019 was open from January 7 to April 1, 2019 and selected 18 pairs of awardees from 50 applications. The final result was announced at the website of ASEM-DUO Secretariat in June 17, 2019.

DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2020 applications were open from December 23, 2019, to April 1, 2020, but the deadline was extended to April 6, 2020, due to the COVID-19. A total

of 19 pairs of awardees were selected from 27 applications, but the number of awardees was reduced to 37 students since one Asian student was unqualified. The final result was announced on the ASEM-DUO website on May 27, 2020.

The Belgium/Flemish Government decided not to prolong the DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship Programme as of the academic year 2021/2022 due to the changes in priorities of the Ministry of Education. Therefore, there was no call for DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2021.

All administrative processes of DUO-Belgium/Flanders were finalized as of the end of April, 2022. It was established in 2011 and supported 152 of the exchange projects between Belgium and 4 Asian countries for almost 10 years.

**8) DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels**

In 2013, Belgium/Wallonia government has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member and DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels officially launched on March 4 2014. The announcement of the DUO Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels was made through the ASEM-DUO website and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat.

The programme is intended mainly for lecturers/professors who are members of the academic or scientific staff of a higher education institution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (university, haute école (university college) or école supérieure des arts (university-level school of art) and of an equivalent-level institution in Asia.

The awarding of these grants is open to all fields of activity. Nevertheless, the preferred fields are as follows: transport and logistics, mechanical engineering, life sciences, agro-industry, space aeronautics and environmental technologies. Concerned Asian countries are Australia, India, Japan and Korea.

The selection panel is comprised of members of the Ministry of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (DGENORS/Directorate-General for Non-compulsory Education and Scientific Research), the Directorate-General operational “Economy, Employment and Research” of the Walloon Public Service (DG06), the NFSR (National Fund for Scientific Research), Wallonie-Bruxelles International and, possibly, of an expert on Asia.

Application submission deadline was 30 June, 2014 and only one application has selected as DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2014. It is between the University UCL and the University Macquarie in Australia in the field of the environment.

The application call for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2017 was opened through the ASEM-DUO Secretariat website (http://www.asemduo.org), and the ARES website (https://www.ares-ac.be/en/relations-internationales/asem-duo-grant). Additionally, the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in 22 Asian ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat. The 22 Asian ASEM member countries are Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Duration of the exchange programme is at least one month (although the month can be divided in 2*15 days with a pause in between) and of maximum three months. The amount of the grant awarded to the pair of professors is 5,600€ per month for the two professors (or a total amount of 17,000€ for a three month exchange for the pair).

The application call for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2017 was open from February 15 to April 15, 2017 and announced 3 pairs of professors as awardees in May 2017. The exchange Asian partners came from 2 Asian member countries, Thailand and China.

The application call for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2018 was opened from February 25 to April 20, 2018 and announced 9 pairs of professors as awardees in July 2018. The exchange Asian partners came from 5 Asian member countries including Australia, China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

The application call for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2019 was opened from February 15 to April 24, 2019 and selected 10 pairs of professors. The exchange Asian partners are from 8 Asian member countries: Australia, China, India, Japan, Myanmar, Russia, Singapore and Vietnam.

From 2020, the funding and duration are redefined as following; the duration of the exchange should be at least three weeks and of maximum two months per person. The amount of the grant awarded to the pair of professors is a fixed amount of 5,000€ to be shared between the two professors according to a distribution key agreed in the convention.

DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2020 was opened the call for applications from February 14 to April 14, 2020, but the deadline was extended to May 14, 2020, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 10 pairs of professors were selected from 23 applications. The exchange Asian partners are from 7 Asian member countries: China, Mongolia, New Zealand, India, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

In 2021, the call for application for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2021 was opened from February 15 to April 15, 2021. A total of 10 pairs of professors were selected from 15 applications. The exchange Asian partners are from 7 Asian member countries: Cambodia, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Russia, and Vietnam.

The call for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2022 applications was open from February 14 to April 28, 2022. A total of 10 pairs of professors were selected from 14 applications. The exchange Asian partners are from Australia, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2023 was open from February 1 to March 30, 2023. A total of 7 pairs of professors were selected from 8 applications. The Asian exchange partners came from 5 Asian member countries: Australia, China, India, Japan, and the Philippines.

In 2024, the Belgium/Wallonia government has redefined the amount of grant, the duration and the number of beneficiaries as follows. The duration of the exchange is fixed at a minimum of 18 days and a maximum of 60 days (including travel days). The amount of the grant for paired mobility is a lump sum of €7,000 to be shared between the two beneficiaries according to a distribution key set by them in the application form. Upon the revision of the grant amount, the total number of selected projects also changed from 10 pairs to 7 pairs.

DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2024 was open from January 29 to March 29, 2024. A total of 7 pairs of professors were selected from 23 applications. The Asian exchange partners came from 7 Asian member countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

The call for applications for DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2025 was open from January 31 to March 28, 2025. In total, 24 applications were submitted and 7 pairs of professors were selected. The Asian exchange partners came from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam.

## 9) DUO-India

India expressed their intention to join the ASEM-DUO during the 11th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting held back to back with ASEMME7 and officially announced to join the ASEM-DUO as a contributing member at the ASEMME7 held in Bucharest, Romania in May, 2019. India will support exchanges of 100 pairs of students and 50 pairs of professors each year and the total amount of contribution each year will be 1,200,000 Euros for 5 years from 2020 to 2024

The DUO-India Fellowship Programme was launched in August 2019 and the announcement of the DUO-India 2020 was made through the ASEM-DUO website and the information letters to ASEM-DUO contact points in ASEM member countries were sent out from the Secretariat.

Its aim of promoting the exchange of people between India and European countries on a balanced and permanent basis. For this program, only such institutes which are part of the Joint Research Projects under Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) are eligible to participate. The list of such institutes (both Indian & European) can be seen on the SPARC website and will be updated every year. As of now, 14 European countries namely Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK are part of the SPARC Programme.

The application call for DUO-India 2020 for professors and students was open from July 15 to August 31, 2019 and the deadline was extended by September 15, 2019. The total number of 221 applications for professors and 18 applications for students were submitted, and 98 pairs of professors and 16 pairs of students were selected. The finalist was announced on November 7, 2019, on the ASEM-DUO website. However, the total number of awardees changed to 97 pairs of professors and 15 pairs of students since some of them withdrew due to their personal circumstances.

As most awardees requested the postponement of the exchange due to the COVID-19, the Indian government has decided not to open the new call for DUO-India 2021 applications and allowed the further postponement until the end of 2021 on July 13, 2021. However, as the pandemic was continued until the end of 2021, most awardees couldn't carry the exchange. In this regard, the Indian government has approved the postponement of exchanges two more times. On October 22, 2021, the second postponement was approved until March 31, 2022. The third postponement was

approved on December 24, 2021, by August 31, 2022.

Most awardees couldn't proceed with the exchange either due to visa issues even in the year 2022. In this regard, the Secretariat requested the Indian government to extend the postponement by March 2023 or August 2023 for the last time. In this regard, on July 20, 2022, the Indian government informed us that they decided to allow the final extension by September 30, 2022 and no further extension will be allowed thereafter. In addition, the Indian government requested that DUO-India Fellowship Programme be formally closed on September 30, 2022. All administrative processes of DUO-India were finalized as of the end of March, 2023.

**10) DUO-Korea/Germany**

German government expressed their intention to join the ASEM-DUO to the ASEM-DUO Secretariat in May, 2018 and finally decided to co-finance DUO-Korea in August, 2019. German will contribute 48,000 euros each year from the DUO-Korea 2020 and the extra 6 pairs will be sponsored by the German contribution. However, on March 26, 2020, Germany has decided to postpone their participation to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early 2021, the German government informed the Secretariat that they will co-finance to DUO-Korea 2021, but requested to use the whole fund in 2021. The Korean government accepted the request of the German government and selected additional 6 pairs of German-Korean students during the DUO-Korea 2021 Selection Committee who will proceed with the exchange in the 2021 fall semester. The finalist of DUO-Korea/Germany 2021 was included in the finalist of DUO-Korea 2021 and was announced on June 30 through the ASEM-DUO website.

On December 1, 2021, the German government informed the Secretariat that they will co-finance the DUO-Korea continuously in 2022. A total of 6 pairs of Korean-German students were selected under DUO-Korea 2022 and supported by DAAD.

In August 2022, DAAD notified the Secretariat that The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) decided not to prolong the co-financing of the DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme beyond 2022 due to budgetary issues. All administrative processes of DUO-Korea/Germany 2022 were finalized as of the end of September, 2023.

## 11) DUO-CIMEA/Italy

DUO-CIMEA/Italy was launched with the aim of promoting exchange of professors, researchers and PhD students between Italian institutions and entities affiliated to CIMEA and 20 Asian countries; which are Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The primary focus of the exchange is related to research and development in the field of higher education law and governance. Other complementary disciplines related to higher education in a holistic way can be considered by the Selection Committee.

The official launch of the DUO-CIMEA/Italy program and its call for applications were announced on March 18, 2025, via the ASEM-DUO and CIMEA websites. Following this announcement, the Secretariat dispatched information letters to ASEM Asian member contact points to promote the program.

In December 2025, the CIMEA confirmed the selection of five pairs of professors and researchers with a total grant of €65,000. The selected Asian partners are from Japan, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand.

Additionally, CIMEA officially requested the Secretariat to close the application period as of December 2025 due to internal circumstances, despite the original deadline of October 31, 2026. Accordingly, the Secretariat updated the relevant information on the ASEM-DUO website.

## 4. Number of Beneficiaries of Each Program

From all the information of nominees mentioned above in individual programs, we summarize the number of awardees as following;

**<Table 1> Number of Awardees of Each Program**

(P=Professor S=Students)

| Year | KOR | FRA | SGP | DNK | THA | SWE | BEL/F | BEL /FWB | IND | GER | CIMEA | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2001 - 2009** | P160 S670 | P220 S260 | S294 | P42 S48 | P160 S78 | | | | | | | **1,932** P582 S1,350 |
| **2010** | S90 | | S18 | | P18 S6 | S24 | | | | | | **156** P18 S138 |
| **2011** | S96 | | S18 | | S6 | S26 | | | | | | **146** S146 |
| **2012** | S98 | | S18 | | S12 | S28 | S33 | | | | | **189** S189 |
| **2013** | S112 | | S18 | | S6 | S28 | S34 | | | | | **198** S198 |
| **2014** | S112 | | S18 | | S6 | S28 | S35 | P2 | | | | **201** P2 S199 |
| **2015** | S116 | | S18 | | S10 | S28 | S35 | | | | | **207** S207 |
| **2016** | S99 | | S22 | | S8 | S24 | S36 | | | | | **189** S189 |
| **2017** | S100 | | S22 | | S16 | S34 | S37 | P6 | | | | **215** P6 S209 |
| **2018** | S103 | | S24 | | S2 | S26 | S37 | P18 | | | | **210** P18 S192 |
| **2019** | S100 | | S24 | | S2 | S27 | S36 | P20 | | | | **209** P20 S189 |
| **2020** | S69 | | - | | S4 | S3 | S11 | P20 | P64 S14 | | | **185** P84 S101 |
| **2021** | S98 | | - | | S2 | S38 | - | P20 | - | S12 | | **170** P20 S150 |
| **2022** | S104 | | S24 | | - | S33 | - | P20 | - | S12 | | **193** P20, S173 |
| **2023** | S90 | | S24 | | - | S28 | | P14 | | | | **156** P14, S142 |
| **2024** | S87 | | S24 | | | S27 | | P14 | | | | **152** P14, S138 |
| **2025** | **S73** | | **S24** | | | **S26** | | **P14** | | | **P10** | **147 P24 S123** |
| **Total** | **2,377** P160 S2,217 | **480** P220 S260 | **590** S590 | **90** P42 S48 | **336** P178 S158 | **428** S428 | **294** S294 | **148** P148 | **78** P64 S14 | **24** S24 | **10 P10** | **4,855** P822 S4,033 |

- There is a discrepancy between the number of awardees and actual exchange fellows due to cancellations and failure to implement the exchange. The data is updated to the actual figure at the time of the report.

## 5. Contributed Fellowship amount of Each Program

The Contributed Fellowship amount every year is calculated with multiplied the number of awardees and the designated fellowship amount of each fellowship program.

**<Table 2> Distributed Fellowship amount of Each Program**

(Unit: 1,000 Euros)

| Year | KOR | FRA | SGP | DNK | THA | SWE | BEL/ F | BEL/ FWB | IND | GER | CIMEA | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2001 - 2009** | 3,292 | 1,822 | 1,248 | 382 | 792 | | | | | | | **7,536** |
| **2010** | 360 | | 72 | | 78 | 96 | | | | | | **606** |
| **2011** | 384 | | 72 | | 24 | 104 | | | | | | **584** |
| **2012** | 392 | | 72 | | 48 | 112 | 132.3 | | | | | **756.3** |
| **2013** | 448 | | 72 | | 24 | 112 | 136 | | | | | **792** |
| **2014** | 448 | | 72 | | 24 | 112 | 140.3 | 6 | | | | **802.3** |
| **2015** | 464 | | 72 | | 40 | 112 | 140.3 | | | | | **828.3** |
| **2016** | 396 | | 88 | | 32 | 84 | 144 | | | | | **744** |
| **2017** | 400 | | 88 | | 64 | 119 | 148.3 | 17 | | | | **836.3** |
| **2018** | 412 | | 96 | | 8 | 91 | 148.3 | 50 | | | | **805.3** |
| **2019** | 400 | | 96 | | 8 | 94.5 | 144 | 50 | | | | **792.5** |
| **2020** | 392 | | | | 16 | 91 | 147 | 50 | 732 | | | **1,428** |
| **2021** | 368 | | | | 8 | 91 | | 50 | | 48 | | **565** |
| **2022** | 368 | | 96 | | - | 91 | | 50 | | 48 | | **653** |
| **2023** | 360 | | 96 | | | 91 | | 50 | | | | **597** |
| **2024** | 336 | | 96 | | | 91 | | 50 | | | | **573** |
| **2025** | **292** | | **96** | | | **91** | | **50** | | | **65** | **594** |
| **Total** | **9,512** | **1,822** | **2,432** | **382** | **1,166** | **1,582** | **1,281** | **423** | **732** | **96** | **65** | **19,493** |

- There is a discrepancy between contributed amount fellowship and the actual execution of the fellowship due to cancellations and failure to implement the exchange. The data is updated to the contributed amount of fellowship.

# 6. Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

To facilitate the implementation of the ASEM-DUO initiative, the Secretariat serves as a focal contact point and depository for relevant information of the program besides providing administrative assistance. A minimum coordination among individual ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme is indeed indispensable in order to maintain consistency and avoid duplicating support, as well as to maximize the effectiveness of the programs and minimize the cost of implementation. The Secretariat also serves, depending on each country's needs, as a center for the receiving and processing applications for ASEM-DUO. In that respect, the Secretariat works closely with ASEM members that are interested in the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme including contributing members, in designing procedure and implementing programs to best suit the needs of each partner.

From June through July 2004, the Secretariat conducted a survey to over a thousand ASEM-DUO applicants and fellows for 3 weeks on the 3 following areas;

- ☐ General information and administration affairs
- ☐ Fellowship, selection, and evaluation process (for fellows only)
- ☐ Comments and advice on public relations

There were 146 returned surveys, and they were analyzed with a recommendation to implement the role of the Secretariat better. The preliminary report was shared with working level officials from contributing countries for further feedback. After receiving feedback from those countries, the Secretariat uploaded the information on the homepage website.

In September 2004, there was a meeting held with EUA at EAIE Conference held in Italy. As a result, the Secretariat set up a registration and search engine on its searching for partners' corner in the website for universities to take part in. The news was published in November 19th issue of EUA Newsletter. For further promotion of the program, the Secretariat had meetings with the Netherlands' Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Sweden's Ministry of Education and Science and DAAD from Germany.

For a new second phase (2006-2010) of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme that was granted in ASEM V held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2004, General Director also paid a visit to contributing member countries including Denmark, France, and Singapore requesting

future plan concerning the extension and including new ASEM members as beneficiaries in November and December 2004.

From the meetings with contributing countries, members expressed strong support for networking and information sharing. Accordingly, the Secretariat set up a database of ASEM-DUO fellows on the website, www.asemduo.org, to facilitate the request. The database shows basic information and mission reports of fellows for those who are interested in exchange and search for more concrete experience of predecessors.

To further inquire on possibility in joining as contributing members, General Director made a business trip to Germany and Finland in September, 2005. In addition, a meeting with the Thai Ministry of Education took place in November for General Director to advice on setting up DUO-Thailand from 2006. Committee has been organized to develop the management of DUO-Thailand.

On November 25, 2005, with the assistance of French Embassy in Korea, the Secretariat organized its first ASEM-DUO Fellows' Alumni Meeting in Seoul, Korea. Over 100 alumni and officers from ASEM member embassies and universities participated to create alumni network among fellows after their exchange and promotion of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

Twenty-five participants from 13 ASEM member countries and EC gathered at the third ASEM-DUO Experts' Meeting in Paris on May 30, 2006. Participating countries included Brunei Darussalam, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Singapore, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Vietnam. At the Meeting, all concurred that there was a serious imbalance between Asia and European contributing members. More European participation was strongly encouraged. Currently, there are 3 Asian contributing members from Korea, Singapore, and Thailand and 1 European from France alone. There was a consensus among contributing members that "mobility" can be given top priority in the ASEM-DUO. In turn, Secretariat's role as an information center is to be strengthened in pre-screening duplicate applicants for different ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

In December 2006, ASEF invited Dr. Sung, Director General, as an advisor to the 1st ASEM Education Hub Advisory Committee Meeting in Singapore. Recommended and selected on the basis of their personal background, activities and experience, and/or according to their position as representative of major networks or organizations in the field of higher education co-operation between Asia and Europe, 17 advisors gathered to

act as a think-tank and discuss ideas on the functioning of the Hub. This participation would enhance cooperation and better relationship between the Secretariat and ASEF in the field of ASEM educational initiatives.

After having reviewed the result of satisfaction report conducted by the Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, the Secretariat renovated its website in a more user-friendly version in spring 2008; now individual programs are more visible and accessible with newly added information link sites of higher educations and scholarship opportunities in ASEM member countries.

Furthermore, the Secretariat is closely working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development) in Korea to focus on setting prospective contributing members and searching appropriate contacts in these member countries as decision makers. This focus is expected to generate related activities of the Secretariat and was discussed under the topic of EU-Asia Higher Education Cooperation at the first ASEM Conference of Ministers for Education in May 2008. From this discussion, the meeting agreed to encourage international educational mobility between both regions and to especially enhance more balanced exchanges of talented students, graduates and researchers by strengthening the potential of national, bilateral and multilateral mobility schemes (such as ASEM DUO and ERASMUS Mundus).

The 4$^{th}$ Expert Meeting, co-hosted with Commission on Higher Education of Thailand, attracted 27 delegations from 12 ASEM member countries, ASEF, and UMAP on June 20, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. At the meeting, French delegation made it official for its discontinuation of DUO-France as of 2008. Brunei Darussalam delegation, on the other hand, officially announced its participation as DUO-Brunei Darussalam starting in second half of 2008. As the only European contributing member, France, withdraws from ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, there are 4 Asian contributing members from Brunei Darussalam, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand. This has raised concern among participants that made them agree to consider the suggestion by the Secretariat in preparing a joint proposal by Asian members to the European Commission to become a contributing member. Considering the serious imbalances within ASEM-DUO, and the 2$^{nd}$ term of ASEM-DUO until 2010, participants agreed to hold the next Expert Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in conjunction with ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in May, 2009. Vietnamese delegation agreed to send the report for further follow-up action.

With the cooperation of Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training, the 5$^{th}$ Expert

Meeting took place in Hanoi, Vietnam where the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Education was in progress in May. Many participants including contributing members of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme gathered and shared concerns and ideas over main issues of ASEM-DUO Fellowship in having only Asian contributing members. The proposal letter addressed to EC to urge EC's participation as a representative of EU members in ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme was drafted and agreed at the meeting and sent in July through the official channel of the Foreign Ministry. Dr. Sung, General Director, Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade had been in close cooperation to develop channels and meant to reach decision makers in current contributing member countries, major beneficiary EU member countries (Sweden, Finland, and Germany) as well as EC of joining the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

As a part of this effort, the Director General of the Secretariat visited to those major beneficiary EU member countries (Sweden, Finland and Belgium) as well as EC in September 2009. In result, DUO-Sweden and DUO-Belgium/Flanders have been launched.

For the third phase (2011-2015) of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, General Director also paid a visit to contributing member countries including Singapore and Thailand in March 2010, requesting future plan concerning the extension. To further inquire on possibility in joining as contributing members, General Director had business meetings with Germany and the Netherlands in September 2010.

The international seminar under the theme of "Measures to Vitalize Mutual Exchange among ASEM Higher Education Accreditation Institutions" was held on October 22, 2010 in Seoul, Korea. This seminar was hosted by KCUE (Korean Council for University Education) and sponsored by MEST (Ministry of Education Science and Technology) and the Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. In order to go beyond competing with each other and make endeavors to enhance the quality of higher education based on mutual cooperation, the Vice President of European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the President of the National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE) and the Director of Higher Education Evaluation Centre (HEEC) made presentations.

In conjunction with ASEMME SOM, the 6th Expert Meeting took place on January 25, 2011 in Copenhagen, Denmark where the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of Education was in progress in May. Around 20 participants including delegations from Germany, Austria,

the Netherlands, Slovakia, Denmark, Thailand, Brunei and Laos were gathered at the workshop. Detailed explanation and information on ASEM-DUO were provided to the participants who were mainly from the education sector. Therefore, reception was much warmer than previous meetings, as the participants quickly understood the structure of ASEM-DUO. Contact points in member countries were renewed, mostly with education field people.

To enhance participation of European countries, the Director General of the Secretariat visited to 4 European member countries (Finland, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia) in January 2012. General Director had a business meeting with the Ministry of Education of each country and not only gave them a brief introduction of ASEM-DUO but also explained conditions and procedure for the launching of their own ASEM-DUO.

With the cooperation of the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, the 7th Expert Meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand where the International Asia-Europe Conference on Enhancing Balanced Mobility was in progress in March. Many participants including contributing members of ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme gathered and shared concerns and ideas over main issues of ASEM-DUO Fellowship. Participants in general showed satisfaction with the achievements by individual ASEM-DUO during the past 11 years of operation, and welcomed the Belgium/Flanders as a new contributing member of the ASEM-DUO, in addition to Sweden which started DUO-Sweden from 2010. Many participants in the meeting expressed a view that now may be an opportune time to amend one of the Core Principles. The first principle of pairing cannot be changed, and the second principle of standardized unit of exchange is also needed to be maintained. The third principle of standardized amount of support, however, is too generous for student exchanges, considering the living cost in certain Asian and European countries. In this respect, it was suggested that the current principle of 2,000 Euros for a pair of students be made more flexible so that it reads “between 1,000 and 2,000 Euros”. Thus, each contributing member has the flexibility to decide how much support to provide to students. For teachers, between 3,000 to 6,000 Euros was suggested for the support amount. Participants agreed to report back to the headquarters and request for comments in the earliest possible date. The Secretariat are now receiving comments from participating members, including contributing members, and then report the result to the ASEM-SOM for ASEM Summit 8 which is the governing body for the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

During the ASEMME3 SOM 2011, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, participants requested an evaluation report on the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme to be

presented at the 2013 ASEMME4. The Secretariat has accepted this request and sponsored an evaluation report to be assessed by IBS, an independent consulting firm in Korea. IBS has submitted two reports to the Secretariat: One is entitled the Evaluation of the ASEM-DUO Performance and Suggestions for Improvement, and the other is Comparison with Similar Programmes. Both reports were written in Korean, and the Secretariat translated both reports in English. The Secretariat tried to solicit the major findings from the reports and to add some comments from the Secretariat's point of view, resulting in this Executive Summary and Comments by the Secretariat. The report was presented during ASEMME4 SOM 2, May 2013, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by the Director General, Dr. Sung, which led minister to note with satisfaction the positive evaluation report of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. They expressed their appreciation for the ASEM-DUO Programme's contribution to balanced mobility between the two regions and encouraged more ASEM member countries to join the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme. Belgium (French Community) expressed its willingness to join the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

To enhance participation of European countries, the Director General of the Secretariat visited to 5 European member countries (Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia and Latvia) in December 2014 and 5 Asian member countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) in January 2015. General Director had a business meeting with the Ministry of Education of each country and not only gave them a brief introduction of ASEM-DUO but also explained conditions and procedure for the launching of their own programme.

The 9th ASEM-DUO expert meeting was held on April 28 during the ASEMME5 in Riga, Latvia. Over 30 participants attended the meeting and shared the progress on ASEM-DUO Programme and discussed further cooperation to increase the number of contributing members.

The Secretariat organized the 3rd ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting on October 28, 2016 in Seoul, Korea. Over 70 ASEM-DUO alumni, contact persons of universities, officers from Embassies of ASEM member countries participated. Through the Meeting, alumni could share the experiences and build network as well as the Secretariat promoted ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

The 10th ASEM-DUO expert meeting was held on November 9 during the SOM2 of ASEMME6 in Seoul, Korea. About 30 participants attended the meeting and shared the progress on ASEM-DUO Programme and discussed further cooperation to increase the

number of contributing members.

The Secretariat renovated its website in a more user-friendly version in spring 2017; now individual programmes are more visible and accessible with newly added information link sites of higher educations and scholarship opportunities in ASEM member countries.

To enhance participation of European countries, the Director General of the Secretariat visited to 5 European member countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland) in July 2017. General Director had a business meeting with the Ministry of Education of each country and not only gave them a brief introduction of ASEM-DUO but also explained conditions and procedure for the launching of their own ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

In addition, the Director General of the Secretariat visited to 4 Asian member countries (Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia and Laos) in February 2018 to enhance participation of Asian countries. General Director had meetings with the Ministry of Education of each country and not only gave them a brief introduction of ASEM-DUO but also explained conditions and procedure for the launching of their own ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

The Secretariat organized the 4$^{th}$ ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting on October 26, 2018 in Seoul, Korea. Over 80 ASEM-DUO alumni, contact persons of universities, officers from Embassies of ASEM member countries, and especially the Ambassador of Romania Embassy participated. Through the Meeting, alumni could share their experiences and build networks as well as the Secretariat promoted ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

In 2019, The ASEM Education Process-History and Vision (2008-2018) was published. They evaluated that ASEM-DUO clearly contributes to the overarching ASEM objective of people-to-people connectivity which was confirmed at the highest political level by all ASEM members. Also, they stated that there is unanimous support for the continuation of the program with 100% of respondents clearly advocating for ASEM-DUO to be continued as one of the uncontested success stories of ASEM.

The 11th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held on May 15, 2019 during the ASEMME7 held in Bucharest, Romania. Over 20 participants from 6 Asian countries (Russia, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, Indian and Thailand) and 5 European countries

(Netherlands, Belgium/Flanders, Belgium/Wallonia, Cyprus and Spain) attended the meeting, shared the progress on ASEM-DUO Programme and discussed further cooperation. Especially, India expressed their special interests to join the ASEM-DUO as the contributing member country and had a discussion in this regards.

In 2020, Germany expressed their interest to join the ASEM-DUO as the contributing member country as co-financing DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme. However, their participation was postponed due to pandemics. In early 2021, Germany officially expressed their participation in ASEM-DUO, and supported the exchange between Germany and Korea.

In 2021, all related meetings of ASEMME8 were held virtually. The director-general had two presentations, one was made in AES workshop 2 in January, and the other one was made in SOM1 in September 2021. At the presentations, the Secretariat shared the current status of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Program and suggested all ASEM European member countries join the Programme to tackle the imbalanced fellowship amount between Asia and Europe.
During SOM2, the Secretariat declared its goals for Action Plans for ASEM Education Strategy 2030. Also, in ASEMME8, ASEM-DUO was acknowledged as a well-managed and well-recognized for its significant role in ASEM Education Process to enhance balanced mobility between both regions. Also, the Minister of Korean Education highly encouraged all ASEM member countries to join the ASEM-DUO Programme during ASEMME8.

The Secretariat organized the 5$^{th}$ ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting on October 28, 2022, at the President Hotel in Seoul, Korea. Over 86 ASEM-DUO alumni, contact persons of universities, and officers from Embassies of ASEM member countries (Hungary and Lithuania) participated. Through the Meeting, alumni could share their experiences and build networks as well as the Secretariat promoted ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

The Secretariat participated in SOM1 for ASEMME9 that was held in Malta. In order to promote ASEM-DUO, the Secretariat made a presentation on the progress of ASEM-DUO and held bilateral meetings with four European countries, namely Hungary, Romania, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

In addition, the call for the 1st ASEM-DUO Essay Contest was opened from February 14 to June 30 in 2023, with the aim of sharing good practices and promoting the ASEM-

DUO Fellowship Programme to the respective officials in ASEM regions. The Secretariat encouraged the awardees to share how their exchange had created, supported, or affected their career path; i.e, how their career path might have been quite different without the support of ASEM-DUO Fellowship. A total of 17 essays were submitted from 10 ASEM countries, namely China, Finland, Germany, Korea, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Vietnam. The Selection Committee met in August and selected 3 excellent essays and 6 outstanding essays, and all of them were published on the ASEM-DUO website on September 20, 2023. The Certificate and prize were awarded individually.
As of December 2023, the Secretariat has also published the Fifth ASEM-DUO Brochure which will be updated soon on the ASEM-DUO website.

The Secretariat participated in SOM2 and ASEMME9 which were held in Malta. During the meeting, the Secretariat made presentations to share the progress of the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme and had bilateral meetings with 8 ASEM member countries namely Brunei, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, and Romania in order to encourage more Asian and European countries to actively participate in the programme. Through the Chair's Conclusion of ASEMME9, ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme was recognized for its significant role to promote balanced mobility of students, researchers and academics between Asia and Europe, and were endorsed the 6$^{th}$ phase (2026-2030).

The 12th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Valletta, Malta on January 24, 2024 during the ASEMME9. A total of 14 participants from 3 Asian countries (Japan, Kazakhstan and Thailand) and 7 European countries (Belgium (Flanders and FWB), Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania) attended the meeting, shared the progress of the ASEM-DUO Programme and discussed further cooperation.
In the meeting, the Belgium/FWB announced that they decided to increase the grant amount per mobility from 5,000 euros to 7,000 euros. Also, the Thai government explained the current circumstance to share the reason of suspending the program and their effort to re-operate the program soon.

Since Italy, Kazakhstan and Hungary expressed their interest to participate in the program during ASEMME9, the Director General, Dr. Sung, paid a business trip to these countries in June, 2024, to provide more information about the program and encourage them to participate it.

The Secretariat organized the 6$^{th}$ ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting at the President

Hotel in Seoul, Korea on October 11, 2024. More than 77 ASEM-DUO alumni, contact persons of universities, and officers from Embassies of ASEM member countries (France, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Singapore, and Slovakia) attended the meeting. Through the meeting, the alumni were able to share their experiences and build networks, and the Secretariat promoted ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme.

In November 2024, the Secretariat participated in the ISOM of ASEMME10 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Secretariat had presentation during the Updates from ASEM Stakeholder session to promote the program to all related ASEM countries and had bilateral meeting with 7 ASEM member countries which are Austria, Brunei, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and Thailand.

In May 2025, the Director General of the Secretariat visited four European ASEM member countries (Finland, Spain, Sweden, and Norway) to encourage greater participation by Europe region. During his visits, he provided a comprehensive introduction to ASEM-DUO and detailed the necessary conditions and procedures for joining the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme as a donor country. Regarding Sweden, where DUO-Sweden has been operating smoothly for more than 15 years, the Director General focused on discussions concerning on its future development and enhancement.

In November 2025, the Secretariat attended the ASEMME10 SOM1 in Bucharest, Romania. The Secretariat delivered two presentations: one during Workshop 3 titled “Mobility and internationalization as instruments to build bridges between Asia and Europe”, and another during the “Updates from ASEM Stakeholder” session. These presentations aimed to provide an update on the program’s current status and further promote it to all relevant ASEM member states. Furthermore, the Secretariat had short bilateral meetings with six ASEM member countries: Brunei, Germany, Italy, the Philippines, Romania, and Thailand.

## 7. History

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| 2025 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2025 called for applications<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2025 applications |
| | 03 | • CIMEA has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member and launched DUO-CIMEA/Italy |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2025 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2025 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2025 selected 13 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2025 selected 38 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2025 selected 7 pairs of professors |
| | 08 | • DUO-Singapore 2025 selected 12 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-CIMEA/Italy selected 5 pairs of awardees |
| 2024 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2024 called for applications<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2024 applications<br>• The 12th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Valletta, Malta, during ASEMME9<br>• ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme was endorsed for extended period of 2026-2030 at ASEMME IX in Valletta, Malta |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2024 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2024 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2024 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2024 selected 44 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2024 selected 7 pairs of professors |
| | 08 | • DUO-Singapore 2024 selected 12 pairs of students |
| | 10 | • The 6th ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting |
| 2023 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2023 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2023 applications<br>• Announcement of Call for the 1st ASEM-DUO Essay Contest |
| | 03 | • Germany and India announced their termination of contribution as of 2023 |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2023 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2023 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2023 selected 15 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2023 selected 45 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2023 selected 7 pairs of professors |
| | 08 | • DUO-Singapore 2023 selected 12 pairs of students |

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| | 09 | • Announcement of 1st ASEM-DUO Essay Contest Awards (3 excellent essay & 6 outstanding essay) |
| 2022 | 01 | • Singapore announced its continuation in the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme participation of 2021-2025<br>• DUO-Singapore 2022 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2022 applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2022 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2022 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2022 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2022 selected 60 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2022 selected 10 pairs of professors |
| | 08 | • DUO-Singapore 2022 selected 12 pairs of students |
| | 10 | • The 5th ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting |
| 2021 | 01 | • Germany has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member and announced its contribution of fellowship fund to DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme<br>• Belgium/Flanders announced its termination of contribution as of 2021 |
| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2021 applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2021 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2021 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2021 selected 23 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2021 selected 58 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2021 selected 10 pairs of professors |
| 2020 | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels called for 2020 applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2020 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2020 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2020 selected 19 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2020 selected 3 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2020 selected 49 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2020 selected 10 pairs of professors<br>• DUO-Sweden 2020 announced call for application (2nd round) |
| | 07 | • DUO-Thailand 2021 called for applications |
| | 11 | • DUO-Sweden 2020(2nd round) selected 1 pair of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2021 selected 1 pair of students |
| 2019 | 01 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2019 called for applications<br>• DUO-Singapore 2019 called for applications |

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| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2019 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2019 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2019 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2019 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• The 11th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Bucharest, Romania, during the ASEMME7<br>• India has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2019 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2019 selected 50 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2019 selected 10 pairs of professors |
| | 07 | • DUO-India 2020 called for applications for students and professors<br>• DUO-Thailand 2020 called for applications |
| | 11 | • DUO-India 2020 selected 16 pairs of students and 98 pairs of professors<br>• DUO-Singapore 2019 selected 12 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2020 selected 2 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2020 called for applications |
| 2018 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2018 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2018 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2018 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2018 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2018 selected 19 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Korea 2018 selected 53 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Sweden 2018 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2019 called for applications |
| | 07 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2018 selected 9 pairs of professors |
| | 10 | • The 4th ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting<br>• ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme was endorsed for extended period of 2021-2025 at ASEM XII in Brussels, Belgium |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2019 selected 1 pair of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2018 selected 12 pairs of students |
| 2017 | 01 | • DUO-Thailand 2017 selected 7 pairs of students(2nd round)<br>• DUO-Singapore 2017 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2017 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2017 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2017 called for applications |

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| | | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2017 selected 19 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Thailand 2018 called for applications<br>• DUO-Korea 2017 selected 50 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Sweden 2017 selected 17 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2017 selected 3 pair of professors |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2018 selected 1 pair of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2017 selected 11 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2018 called for applications |
| 2016 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2016 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2016 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2016 called for applications<br>• DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2016 selected 18 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Korea 2016 selected 50 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Sweden 2016 selected 13 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2017 called for applications (1st round) |
| | 08 | • DUO-Thailand 2017 selected 1 pair of students (1st round) |
| | 10 | • The 3rd ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting<br>• DUO-Thailand 2017 called for applications (2nd round) |
| | 11 | • The 10th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Seoul, Korea<br>• DUO-Singapore 2016 selected 11 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2017 called for applications |
| 2015 | 01 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2015 called for applications<br>• DUO-Singapore 2015 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2015 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2015 called for applications<br>• DUO-Thailand 2016 called for applications<br>• The 9th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Riga, Latvia |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2015 selected 18 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2015 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2015 selected 58 pairs of students |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2016 selected 4 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2015 selected 9 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2016 called for applications |
| 2014 | 01 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2014 called for applications<br>• DUO-Singapore 2014 called for applications<br>• Belgium/Wallonia has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member |
| | 03 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2014 called for applications |

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| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2014 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2014 called for applications<br>• The 8th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Hangzhou, China |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2014 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2015 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2014 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2014 selected 56 pairs of students |
| | 09 | • DUO-Belgium/Wallonia-Brussels 2014 selected 1 pair of professors |
| | 10 | • ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme was endorsed for extended period of 2016-2020 at ASEM X in Milano, Italy |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2015 selected 5 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2014 selected 9 pairs of students |
| 2013 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2013 called for applications |
| | 03 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2013 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2013 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2013 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2013 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2014 called for applications<br>• ASEM-DUO Evaluation Report was presented during ASEMME4, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2013 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2013 selected 56 pairs of students |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2014 selected 3 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2013 selected 9 pairs of students |
| 2012 | 01 | • DUO-Thailand 2012 selected 6 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2012 called for applications |
| | 03 | • The 7th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand<br>• DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2012 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2012 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2012 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2012 selected 17 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2012 selected 14 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2012 selected 50 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Thailand 2013 called for applications |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2013 selected 3 pairs of students<br>• The 2nd ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting<br>• DUO-Singapore 2012 selected 9 pairs of students |
| 2011 | 01 | • The 6th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark during the SOM for ASEMME 3<br>• DUO-Singapore 2011 called for applications |

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| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2011 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2011 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Singapore 2011 selected 9 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2011 selected 13 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2011 selected 48 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Thailand 2012 called for applications |
| 2010 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2010 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2010 called for applications<br>• DUO-Sweden 2010 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Singapore 2010 selected 9 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Sweden 2010 selected 12 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2010 selected 46 pairs of students |
| | 08 | • DUO-Thailand 2011 called for application |
| | 10 | • ASEM-DUO Program was endorsed for extended period of 2011-2015 at ASEM Ⅷ in Brussels, Belgium<br>• ASEM Accreditation International Seminar (Promoting Exchange among ASEM Accreditation Agencies) was held in Seoul, Korea |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2011 selected 3 pairs of professors |
| 2009 | 03 | • DUO-Thailand 2009 selected of 6 pairs of students (1st round)<br>• DUO-Thailand 2009 called for applications (2nd round)<br>• DUO-Singapore 2009 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2009 called for applications |
| | 05 | • The 5th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnams |
| | 06 | • DUO-Singapore 2009 selected 12 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2009 selected 39 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Thailand 2009 selected 14 pairs of professors and 8 pairs of students (2nd round) |
| | 08 | • DUO-Thailand 2010 called for applications |
| | 11 | • DUO-Thailand 2010 selected 9 pairs of professors and 3 pair of students |
| | 12 | • Sweden and Belgium/Flanders have shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a contributing member |
| 2008 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2008 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-France announced its termination of contribution as of 2008 |
| | 04 | • DUO-Thailand 2008 selected 19 pairs of professors and 13 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2008 call for applications |

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| | 05 | • DUO-Singapore 2008 selected 18 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • The 4th ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand<br>• DUO-Korea 2008 selected 5 pairs of professors and 40 pairs of students |
| | 09 | • DUO-Thailand 2009 called for applications (1st round) |
| 2007 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2007 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-Denmark announced its termination of contribution as of 2007 |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2007 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Singapore 2007 selected 18 pairs of students |
| | 06 | • DUO-Thailand 2007 selected 30 pairs of professors and 6 pairs of students<br>• DUO-France 2007 selected 5 projects<br>• DUO-Korea 2007 selected 7 pairs of professors and teachers and 63 pairs of students |
| | 10 | • DUO-Thailand 2008 called for applications |
| 2006 | 01 | • DUO-France 2006 called for applications<br>• DUO-Singapore 2006 called for application |
| | 04 | • DUO-Thailand 2006 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Korea 2006 called for applications<br>• The 3rd ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Paris, France |
| | 06 | • DUO-France 2006 selected 7 projects |
| | 07 | • DUO-Korea 2006 selected 11 pairs of professors and teacher and 50 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2006 selected 18 pairs of students |
| | 10 | • DUO-Thailand 2006 selected 17 pairs of teachers and 6 pairs of students |
| | 12 | • DUO-Thailand 2007 called for applications<br>• DUO-France 2007 called for applications |
| 2005 | 01 | • DUO-France 2005 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Korea 2005 called for applications |
| | 07 | • DUO-Singapore 2005 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2005 selected 12 pairs of professors and 45 pairs of students<br>• DUO-France 2005 selected 6 projects. |
| | 10 | • The 1st ASEM-DUO Fellows Alumni Meeting |
| | 11 | • Thailand has shown intention to join ASEM-DUO as a |

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|---|---|---|
| | | contributing member |
| 2004 | 01 | • DUO-Singapore 2004 called for applications |
| | 02 | • DUO-France 2004 called for applications<br>• DUO-Denmark 2004 called for applications |
| | 04 | • DUO-Korea 2004 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-Denmark 2004 selected 12 pairs of students |
| | 07 | • DUO-Singapore 2004 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Korea 2004 selected 12 pairs of professors and 39 pairs of students<br>• DUO-France 2004 selected 9 projects |
| | 10 | • ASEM-DUO Programme was endorsed for extended period of 2006-2010 at ASEM V in Hanoi, Vietnam |
| 2003 | 04 | • DUO-Denmark 2003 called for applications |
| | 05 | • DUO-Korea 2003 called for applications |
| | 06 | • DUO-France 2003 selected 9 projects |
| | 07 | • DUO-Korea 2003 selected 16 pairs of professors and 33 pairs of students |
| | 08 | • DUO-Denmark 2003 selected 14 pairs of professors and 15 pairs of students<br>• DUO-Singapore 2003 selected 27 pairs of students |
| | 11 | • The 2nd ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Seoul, Korea |
| 2002 | 05-09 | • DUO-Singapore 2002 selected 18 pairs of students<br>• DUO-France 2002 selected 16 exchange projects<br>• DUO-Korea 2002 selected 19 pairs of students, 2 pairs of high school teachers and 14 pairs of professors<br>• Denmark announced to join the ASEM-DUO Fellowship as a contributing partner at the ASEM 4 held in Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 2001 | 04 | • The 1st ASEM-DUO Expert Meeting was held in Seoul, Korea |
| | 09 | • A Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship was established in Seoul, Korea |
| | 12 | • DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme 2001 selected 8 pairs of students and professors |
| 2000 | 10 | • Korea, France and Singapore jointly proposed the ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme (ASEM-DUO) at ASEM 3 held in Seoul, Korea, and this initiative was endorsed by the summit. |